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Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-14 ISO-00 EB-08 AGRE-00 AID-05
CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-01 INR-10 NSAE-00
SP-02 STR-07 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 L-03
PM-05 NSC-05 SS-15 DODE-00 PA-02 ICA-20 EA-12
/139 W
----------025243 010249Z /20
R 311710Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8163
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
AMEMBASSY MASERU

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 14868

USEEC

PASS AGRICULTURE ELECTRONICALLY
PARIS ALSO FOR USOECD
GENEVA ALSO FOR USMTN

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, EEC
SUBJ: EC UMR'S FOR CHAD AND LESOTHO

REF: (A) BRUSSELS 12309; (B) STATE 157252;
(C) BRUSSELS 10495 NOTAL; (D) BRUSSELS 11978 NOTAL

1. REF A REPORTED EC COMMISSION'S INITIAL REACTION TO U.S. REQUEST THAT EC FOOD AID UMR'S FOR SKIMMED MILK POWDER AND WHEAT TO CHAD AND LESOTHO, RESPECTIVELY (REFS C AND D) BE SET AT ZERO. MISSION HAS JUST RECEIVED LETTER FROM KEITH ARROWSMITH, DG-VI OFFICIAL WHO SETS EC UMR'S, EXPRESSING FURTHER COMMISSION REACTION RE THE UNCLASSIFIED

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SETTING OF UMR'S IN GENERAL AND REJECTING U.S. REQUEST THAT LESOTHO'S UMR FOR WHEAT BE SET AT ZERO.

2. CONTENTS OF LETTER FOLLOW:

"THE SUGGESTION MADE BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, THAT THE FIXING OF UMR'S IN THE CASE OF LESOTHO AND CHAD IS

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INAPPROPRIATE AS COMMERCIAL IMPORTATIONS OCCURRED ONLY IN ONE YEAR OUT OF THE PRECEDING FIVE, IS NOTED WITH SOME SYMPATHY.

"I WOULD DRAW ATTENTION HOWEVER TO PARAGRAPH 12(A) OF THE PROCEDURES FOR NOTIFICATION, CONSULTATION AND ESTABLISHMENT OF UMR'S UNDER THE PRINCIPLES OF SURPLUS DISPOSAL, WHERE IT IS STATED: 'AS A POINT OF DEPARTURE, THE SUPPLYING COUNTRY APPROACHED WILL ATTEMPT TO CALCULATE THE STATISTICAL FIGURE REPRESENTING THE TOTAL COMMERCIAL IMPORTS OF THE COMMODITY CONCERNED BY THE REQUESTING COUNTRY IN A REPRESENTATIVE PERIOD OF YEARS, WHICH SHOULD NORMALLY BE THE PRECEDING FIVE YEARS.'

"IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS GUIDANCE UMR'S WERE DULY CALCULATED IN RESPECT OF THE COMMUNITY'S FOOD AID ACTIONS IN FAVOUR OF LESOTHO AND CHAD. SUBSEQUENTLY BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS TOOK PLACE WITH AUSTRALIA, CANADA AND NEW ZEALAND IN ADDITION TO THE USA; AND NO CRITICISM WAS RECEIVED FROM ANY OF THESE THREE COUNTRIES IN RESPECT OF THE PROPOSED UMR'S.

"IN THE CASE OF LESOTHO IT IS CONSIDERED THAT THE WHEAT UMR OF 1,600 T., OF WHICH LESOTHO HAS ALREADY BEEN ADVISED, SHOULD BE RETAINED. IN THE CASE OF CHAD HOWEVER IT IS AGREED THAT THE PROPOSED SKIMMED MILK

POWDER UMR OF 15 T. BE REPLACED BY ZERO; AND AUSTRALIA, CANADA AND NEW ZEALAND HAVE BEEN INFORMED ACCORDINGLY.

"IN CONCLUSION I WOULD SUGGEST THAT AT A FUTURE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON SURPLUS DISPOSAL IT MIGHT BE DESIRABLE TO SEEK AGREEMENT ON MINIMUM UMR LEVELS FOR THE PRINCIPAL COMMODITIES SUPPLIED AS FOOD AID, I.E. LEVELS BELOW WHICH THE NEED FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF UMR'S WOULD BE WAIVED." HINTON

NNN

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Reason:
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